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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1949.

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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BROADWOODWIDGER, DEVON

E.D.ALLEN-PRICE, M.D.,D.P.H..
Medical Officer of Health,

20 WESTERN ROAD

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Broadwoodwidger Rural District.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1949.

Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report for the year 1949.

The general health of the population of the district remained good throughout the year, and this was particularly so in the case of the children.

The births and deaths remained around average for the district and the death rate at 8.2 per thousand population compared very favourably with that of 11.7 for England & Wales. It will be seen from the table that all the deaths occured in the upper age groups.

The record of milk sampling once again showed very satisfactory results as regards the cleanliness test.

General Statistics.

Area (in acres)	29,294.
Population - 1931 Census . . .	2,177.
Estimated Population-Mid 1949 .	2,029.
Parishes	6.
Number of Inhabited Houses . .	565.
Rateable Value	£4,180.
Product of Penny Rate	£17.
Loan Debt	£15,269.

Vital Statistics.

	Male	Female	Total
Live Births	14	20	34
Legitimate	13	17	
Illegitimate	1	3	

		England & Wales
Birth Rate per 1,000 population ..	16.8	16.7
Still Births	1	
Still Birth Rate	0.49	0.39

	Male	Female	Total
Deaths	7	10	17

		England & Wales
Death Rate per 1,000 population .	8.4	11.7
Corrected Death Rate	8.2	
Deaths from Maternal Causes	Nil	
Maternal Mortality	-	0.98
Deaths of Infants under 1 year ..	Nil	
Infant Mortality	-	32

The chief causes of death were :-

Infectious Causes:

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1

General Causes:

Heart Disease	9
Cerebral Haemorrhage	2
Digestive Diseases	2
Asthma	1
Pneumonia	1
Other Causes	1
Total	17.

Age of Death Table.

Age at Death	Males	Females	
Infants under 1 year . . .	-	-	
1 - 5	-	-	
5 - 15	-	-	
15 - 25	-	-	
25 - 35	-	-	
35 - 45	-	-	
45 - 55	1	-	
55 - 65	2	3	
65 - 75	3	2	
75 and over	1	5	
	7	10	Total : 17

General Provisions of the Health Services.

The year was the first full one after the implementation of the National Health Service Act and much praise and criticism has naturally accrued. However, from the point of view of the general health of this district in particular, no noticeable change has occured although there is some evidence that certain sections of the population, particularly the women and some of the fixed lower income groups including pensioners, have been better cared for, at least they have had the financial fear of approaching their doctor removed.

Infectious Diseases.

The following cases of infectious diseases were notified by practitioners :

Whooping Cough	8
Measles	6
Erysipelas	3

Apart from 19 cases of Chicken Pox at North Petherwin nothing in the nature of an epidemic occured.

Diphtheria.

No case of this disease was notified during the year.

Tuberculosis.

One case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis was notified during the year and rapidly proved fatal. Two people remained on the register at the end of the year - one pulmonary and one non-pulmonary.

In conclusion I would thank the Council for the ready hearing I always receive and to Mr. Judd who has kindly once again prepared the section on housing and sanitation.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E. D. ALLEN-PRICE

Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

Council Houses.

No work on new Council Houses was carried out during the year. The reason for this being that Messrs. Selleck Nicholls & Co. Ltd. were unable to find a Sub-Contractor who would erect the ten Cornish Unit houses on the Maxworthy, Langdon Cross and St. Giles-in-the-Heath sites. A contract with the firm for the Maxworthy houses was signed and sealed two years ago.

Your Council was now faced with no alternative but to substitute traditional type houses for Cornish Units on the above sites and trust that it would be possible to negotiate suitable tenders with local builders. This change-over necessitated unavoidable delay.

Maxworthy.

The whole of the site works has been completed and in December the Council had asked Mr. J.E.Stacey of Holsworthy for a tender for a pair of traditional houses. His tender has since been received.

Langdon Cross.

The well was sunk on this site in May and in December the Council asked Messrs Biddlecombe & Moore of Launceston for a tender for a pair of traditional houses. This tender was later accepted and the houses are in course of erection.

St. Giles-in-the-Heath.

After considerable negotiation the Ministry of Health authorised the acceptance of the site works tender for this site in £2,178 : 14 : 2. The Council decided not to proceed with the site works until satisfied that a satisfactory tender for the building of the houses was forthcoming. Later events have proved the Council to be wise in their action.

In December the Council's plans for traditional houses were approved by the Ministry of Health and authority given to negotiate a price for the erection of the houses.

Broadwood Village.

Tenders from a local firm were received for the four traditional houses on this site. The figure was considerably in excess of an acceptable figure.

New Dwellings Completed.

To be used in connection with agriculture ..... 2.

Separate dwellings divided from large house .... 2.

Plans.

The following plans were approved :-

1. Farmhouses	2.
2. Temporary Dwelling	1.
3. Converting Power House to Cottage ...	1.
4. Traditional Council Houses	14.
5. Additions to existing houses	6.
6. Cowsheds, agricultural buildings ...	9.
7. Garages	3.

Housing Repairs.

One Notice under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936 was served and at the end of the year the Council was awaiting the Owner's proposals.

One Statutory Notice under the Public Health Act, 1936 has been complied with.

Four informal notices were served during the year, three of which had been complied with.

No applications for Improvement Grants under the Housing Act, 1949 have been received.

Schools.

With the exception of Ladycross the Schools in the district are satisfactory. The water supply at Ladycross County Primary School is a continual source of trouble. In the last four months of this year the School was without a piped supply of water for no less than 88 days. At this School is a Canteen where meals for between 90 and 100 children are prepared daily. This Canteen is at present, during the summer months, relying upon water from a heavily polluted well in the school grounds. Instructions have been given to the Canteen workers to chlorinate this water after being pumped from the well and before use but it is hoping for too much to expect that these instructions are properly carried out.

If a more satisfactory supply of water cannot be provided this canteen should be closed.

Refuse Collection.

In September the Council started the first collection of refuse in their district. This is a once monthly service in part of the district only i.e. Petherwin Gate, Langdon Cross, Ladycross and Yeolmbridge.

Water Samples.

Twenty-nine samples of well and spring water were analysed during the year, of these nine were considered unsatisfactory. The nine unsatisfactory samples were as follows :-

1. Private wells, later protected ... ... 2.
2. Ladycross School ... ... 3.
3. From a Dairy Farm. Applicant for a T.T. Licence which was not granted ... 4.

Milk Production.

1. Licences issued to produce Tuberculin Tested Milk.. 2.
2. Tuberculin Tested licence withdrawn .. .. 1.

One producer was threatened with prosecution unless he voluntarily ceased to sell milk. He ceased as a milk producer.

There are 26 producer-retailers in the district with, in most cases, not more than a few registered customers each. Milk from these producers was sampled during the year.

On the 1st. October the supervision of milk production passed to the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries, the number of producers on the Register at that date was 156.

The results of milk samples taken were as follows :-

Grade.	No. Samples taken	Passed	Failed.
Tuberculin Tested	8	8	-
Accredited	9	7	2
Ungraded School	3	3	-
Ungraded	54	37	17
	74	55	19

In conclusion I would thank the Council for the support they have always given me.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. A. JUDD

Sanitary Inspector.

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